

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 5 is a perspective view of a section of a closed clamp.--

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 7, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- In instances of single mat use the clamps 2 are locked and finished with corner trim 3 and edge trim 4 by engaging said clamps and trim components using dove tail connections 8. In particular, as seen in Figure 5, male dove tail members 8a on the upper and lower halves 2a and 2b respectively of clamp 2 interlock in the female spaces or slots between male dove tail members 8b on edge trim 4, and male dove tail members 8b interlock in the female spaces or slots between male dove tail members 8a on both the upper and lower halves 2a and 2b of clamp 2. Male dove tail members 8b extend, when so mated, so as to mate with both the upper and lower halves 2a and 2b of clamp 2 so as to prevent clamp 2, shown in its closed position in Figure 5, from opening into its open position of Figure 6. Thus mat 1 may be securely retained by teeth 7 between the upper and lower halves 2a and 2b of clamped 2 when in its closed position.

In instances of multiple mat use the clamps 2 are locked by and adjoining clamp by engaging the dovetails of each clamp when positioned back to back as shown in figure 9. The outer perimeter of the multiple mat assembly is secured by engaging the dovetails 8 of trim 3 and 4 with the clamps 2.

Clamp 2 is hinged about elongate hinge 10 so that upper and lower halves 2a and 2b may rotate about hinge 10 between the closed position of Figure 5 and the open position of Figure 6. It Clamp 2 opens to accept the edge 1a of the mat 1. Both the top upper and bottom half lower halves 2a and 2b of the clamp contains rows of teeth 7 shown as best seen in the open clamp of figure 6. These Teeth 7 teeth perforate and engage the edge 1a of mat 1 when the

clamp is closed. Each clamp is locked closed by the ~~insertion-dove tail mating~~ of either an adjoining clamp 2 or a trim component 3 ~~and-or~~ 4 into the corresponding dove tail slots 8 on both the clamp and the adjoining clamp or trim component.

The trim components 3 and 4 are outwardly sloped down and contain dovetail slots 8 on its inside vertical surface that mate with the dovetail slots on the outside vertical surface of the clamp 2. The trim locks the clamp when installed so as to retain the hydrocarbon retentive mat 1. Further, the trim ~~can~~ components may be fastened to a substrate surface by lag screws or similar ~~fastening device~~ fasteners (not shown) to fix the mat and frame assembly in a specific location.

Thus as may be readily understood, frame 5 may be manufactured by way of example from polypropylene plastic formed into hinged clamps 2 with barbed surfaces such as teeth 7 on the gripping surfaces of the clamps to engage and retain mat 1 along its perimeter edge 1a.

The clamps 2 include means such as dove tail slots 8 to engage adjacent clamps 2 or edge trim components 3 or 4. This allows multiple sections of mat and frame assemblies 5 to be co-joined such as seen in Figure 9 to cover larger areas than a single mat. The edge trim components 3 and 4 finish the frame with a sloped surface, 3a and 4a respectively, that improves egress onto and off of the mat.

The mat and frame may be secured to a floor or other receiving surface by screws, bolts or the like fasteners, for example using apertured tabs 3b mounted to each corner of the mat and frame assembly 5.

The drip berm according to the present invention, for example frame assembly 5, is thus adapted for mounting onto drip mat 1 having circumferential edges 1a extending contiguously around the circumference thereof. The drip berm includes one or more inner berm frame members such as clamps 2 and one or more cooperating outer berm frame members such as trim component 3 or 4. The inner berm frame members are mountable contiguously around the circumferential edges 1a of drip mat 1. The outer berm frame members are mountable along

an inner edge of the outer berm members, such as inner edge 4b of trim 4 and inner edge 3c of trim 3, contiguously along or around an outer edge of, or perimeter of a frame formed by the inner berm member or members such as outer perimeter edge 2c of clamps 2.

Each inner berm member includes at least one clamp member, such as clamp 2, for mounting onto the circumferential edges 1a of drip mat 1. Each clamp member includes a pair of jaws, such as upper and lower halves 2a and 2b of clamp 2, for mounting inwardly of the circumferential edges of the drip mat. The jaws are pivotable about a clam-shell hinge, such as hinge 10, so as to, in a closed position, engage and clamp the circumferential edges of the drip mat between the pair of jaws, and so as to, in an open position, release the circumferential edges of the drip mat from between the pair of jaws. The outer berm members cooperate, when mounted onto the inner berm members, for example by mating of dove tail slots 8 and 8' and male dove tail members 8a and 8b, to lock the pair of jaws in the closed position.

A rigid flange is mounted to each jaw of the pair of jaws so as to extend in oppositely disposed relation to each jaw. In the illustrated embodiments, the pair of jaws are the upper and lower halves 2a and 2b of clamps 2, and the corresponding rigid flanges are the flanges 2a' and 2b' supporting the male dove tail members 8a extending from hinge 10. Thus hinge, such as hinge 10, is disposed so as to provide a fulcrum 11 between each jaw (for example clamp halves 2a and 2b) and its corresponding flange (for example flanges 2a' and 2b'). Each flange has a first locking means disposed on its corresponding outer perimeter. For example, in the illustrated embodiments the first locking means are the dove tail members 8a and the dove tail slots 8 between dove tail members 8a. The inner edge of each outer berm member has a second locking means thereon (for example dove tail slots 8' and dove tail members 8b) for interlocking mating with the first locking means. The dove tail slots 8 on each clamp half 2a and 2b cooperates with each other when the clamp 2 is in the closed position so as to releasably interlock dove tail slots 8 with the dove tail slots 8' between dove tail members 8b. When the cooperating slots 8 on clamp halves 2a and 2b are aligned with each other, they are releasably interlocked with slots 8' between dove tail members 8b so as to lock clamp 2 in the closed position.

The first locking means may be characterized as including in one embodiment at least one first male mating member in the form of dove tail members 8a and at least one first female receiver in the form of dove tail slots 8, and the second locking means may be characterized as including at least one second male mating member in the form of dove tail members 8b and at least one second female receiver in the form of dove tail slots 8'. In this embodiment the first male mating member mates with the second female receiver and the second male mating member mates with the first female receiver. For example, the first and second locking means may be dove-tail shaped male members forming dove-tail shaped female receivers therebetween. The at least one first male mating member, the at least one first female receiver, the at least one second male mating member, and the at least one second female receiver may be each co-extensive spaced arrays of the male mating members and female receivers. The dove-tail shaped male members may be co-extensive spaced arrays of dove-tail shaped male members for forming a continuous dove-tail joint between the inner and outer berm members.

In an embodiment of the invention the inner berm members are also mountable back-to-back to each other so as to oppositely dispose corresponding pairs of jaws. The first locking means on a first of the inner berm members are mountable to the first locking means on a second of the inner berm members in the back-to-back pair of inner berm members such as seen in Figure 9a so as to lock the pair of jaws on the first and second inner berm members in the closed position. In this fashion the drip berm may be expanded to form a larger frame to cover a larger area with a plurality of drip mats mounted in the expanded frame.--